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Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection
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and
Agricultural Extension Service
Of Nebr. College of Agr.

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

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Week Ending 9-20-54

WEATHER The week was warmer than usual with some rather warm days over the south central and eastern portions of the State and no cool weather. Sunshine was ample. Light to moderate showers fell over most of the State during the middle of the week but the last three days were fair.

CROPS About 30 percent more of the corn crop moved into the mature stage during the week and over 37 percent of the total crop is now mature. This is much less than at this time in 1953, when corn was unusually early. About 13 percent of the corn was in the hard dough stage as compared with 36 percent a week earlier.

Some early corn is being picked and fed in parts of eastern Nebraska. Silage operations are rather general over the State. Silage yields are below average in the drier areas as dry weather curtailed the growth and reduced the water content causing the stalks to weigh less. Some farmers plan to pick corn as early as possible and before the ears drop to the ground in areas where corn borer infestation is present.

Wheat seeding was 50 percent completed by the close of the week in comparison with 61 percent seeded by this date last year. Many early seeded fields are already germinated and have good stands. A rain would be welcome in parts of western Nebraska to correct local moisture shortages and to reduce soil blowing. Percentages of winter wheat seeded to date by districts are as follows: Northwest 86, North Central 65, Northeast 77, Central 49, East 30, Southwest 78, South Central 43, Southeast 20.

About 70 percent of the rye has been seeded in comparison with the 78 percent seeded by this date last year. Seeding of new alfalfa is 91 percent complete and is ahead of last year. Farmers in some localities sprayed for grasshopper control in order to avoid damage to new seedings.

Sorghums advanced rapidly and much of the crop is safe from a possible early frost. Most of the crop is scheduled for harvest as grain and yields are expected to be better than average. In comparison with other years a smaller percentage of the crop was planted to forage types.

The Early potato harvest is nearly complete with final shipments being made from the Hershey and Burwell areas. Rail shipments are slightly ahead of last year's total at this time. In western Nebraska the Late potato harvest will start about October 1. The quality of this year's crop is expected to be good; however, the acreage is smaller than last year. Blight has been found in some fields in the Upper Platte Valley but is not expected to spread, if average weather conditions prevail.

The dry bean harvest is nearing the half-way mark and yields show considerable variation depending upon the extent of local damage from hail and blight. Late fields need additional growing time in order to reach full maturity before possible damage from early frost. A shortage of rail cars developed during the week.

Sugar beet prospects continue to point toward average yields. Water was scarce in some irrigation districts in western Nebraska but fields in these areas are not expected to be too hard and dry for use of mechanical harvesting equipment.

Early reports on the alfalfa seed harvest are favorable, particularly where fields were sprayed and defoliated. The sudan seed crop in southwestern Nebraska was promising but was hit by a severe hail storm during the week. Severe damage to a sizeable percentage of the Dundy county acreage was reported.

More than half the counties report a shortage of rainfall and surface moisture. Reports on sub-soil moisture are about equally divided between ample and short. Range and pasture remained unchanged during the week with about one-third of the counties reporting a shortage and the remaining two-thirds indicating ample supplies.

1300

9-21-54

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		September													
		14th		15th		16th		17th		18th		19th		20th	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW.	Chadron	81	45	87	58	85	55	78	50	68	51	81	35	84	39
	Scottsbluff	82	54	86	55	86	52	84	55	77	49	81	41	84	40
	Sidney	81	52	83	53	82	51	85	55	79	48	84	39	85	47
N-C	Valentine	76	51	65	54	79	56	77	56	66	59	76	40	81	44
NE	Norfolk	81	61	71	54	74	62	83	61	76	67	84	56	84	53
	Sioux City	82	58	68	52	74	60	77	58	73	64	85	55	84	53
CEN.	Grand Island	85	54	77	56	82	65	87	60	92	70	85	57	85	60
	Lexington	85	48	80	55	85	64	93	57	94	63	87	46	87	48
E-C	Lincoln	92	62	78	60	78	63	86	71	93	74	93	61	85	58
	Omaha	90	60	76	59	77	62	80	66	91	71	91	61	86	54
SW	Imperial	86	48	86	53	85	58	88	57	85	63	85	45	85	56
	North Platte	84	47	78	55	83	62	88	60	84	55	84	43	87	44

<u>Eastern Division</u>	<u>Central Division</u>	<u>Western Division</u>
Grand Island .75	Lexington .11	Chadron .26
Lincoln .37	North Platte .20	Imperial 1.64
Norfolk .39	Valentine .18	Scottsbluff .01
Omaha .54		Sidney 0
Sioux City .41		

	<u>Eastern Div.</u>	<u>Central Div.</u>	<u>Western Div.</u>
Total past week	.54	.31	.28
Total since April 1	21.00	14.15	10.93
Normal since April 1	19.57	16.64	13.22

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